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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Security in the Soviet Army	DATE DISTR.	28 February 1955	
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ARMY review completed.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC							
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REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 25 Jan. 1955

SUBJECT Security in the Soviet Army

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Unit Designations

1.

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Officers had told [] that, on special occasions and parades, the battalion standard was unfurled; these occasions and parades were February 23, May 1, and November 7. At all other times, it was cased, kept at headquarters, with a sentry guarding it at all times. Every "chast" []

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[] had a standard with the unit designation on it. The 10th Sep. Gd. Bn., because it was a separate battalion, also had its own standard.

2.

Security Duties

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3.

[] the Motor Trans. Plat., shared guard duty with the companies in the battalion. It also had the permanent responsibility of providing the sentry for one post in the motor pool and one sentry in its platoon area. Both of these sentries had a four-hour tour starting at 2300 hours and ending at dawn. The motor pool was always the responsibility of the Motor Trans. Plat. During the night, there

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were two sentries at the battalion headquarters building. One guarded the battalion standard and the other guarded the building entrance. During the day, there was one sentry on duty at the battalion standard and, occasionally, one at the building entrance; at night, there was also one sentry at the food-storage warehouse. When entering the battalion area, all EM were required to produce their service book as a form of identification.

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Foreign Nationals

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4. Within the caserne area, there were approximately 21 regularly-employed [redacted] nationals. One of these [redacted] nationals was the post plumber and the remainder worked at the Post Department Store (Univermag).

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5. [redacted] did not know the names of any foreign nationals that worked in the caserne and claimed that the only foreign nationals who could enter the compound area were those employed there regularly. At the gate, a guard checked identity documents of the foreign nationals against a master list of names that he kept before he allowed entry. The guard also took [redacted] any documents they had and kept them until the individual left the compound. [redacted] employees possibly had a special pass for identification

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6. Twice, [redacted] brought a [redacted] national into the caserne area to repair the refrigerator in the warehouse. The guard stopped both at the gate and called the OD by telephone to request permission for the man to enter the area; this permission was granted over the phone. The second time the same man was brought in, the sentry let him through without phoning for permission.

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7.

Military Intelligence Activities

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8.

9. [redacted] never saw any uniformed MVD personnel outside the USSR. Occasionally, [redacted] had seen individuals in Potsdam dressed in civilian clothes who he described as "looking like Russians." [redacted] thought they were MVD personnel but had no basis for this assumption. [redacted] did not know if MVD officers or EM could arrest Soviet Army personnel.

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Censorship

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10. Mail to and from the USSR and between military personnel in occupied areas was not obviously censored and [redacted] did not believe that there was any actual physical censorship. The men in his unit had been told that they were forbidden to write home about the location, size, and equipment of their unit but, in spite of this, [redacted] some [redacted] wrote such information home and nothing ever came of it.

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11. [redacted] it was forbidden to write to [redacted] or to receive mail from them. [redacted] had written a letter to a [redacted] firm which was accepted by the battalion mail clerk but it was undelivered and, a few weeks later, it was returned [redacted] with

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cancellation marks on the envelope, and apparently unopened.

Photos

12. Troops were allowed to have cameras and were permitted to take pictures within the caserne area itself. They were told on one or two occasions by battalion officers not to take pictures of any of the equipment, but this was not enforced. They were permitted to photograph tanks and trucks as long as the vehicle numbers were not visible in the photograph. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Film and 25X1
supplies for [redacted] processing and printing were sold in the Post Department Store. Many of the men purchased these supplies and processed their film in the billets; other men took their film for processing to [redacted] stores.

Komendatura Patrols

13. [redacted] had not been in a Komendatura in the Soviet Zone [redacted] 25X1
did not know the location of any, and could give no information on them. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

Documents Section

14. [redacted] no documents section within [redacted] unit but knew that a 25X1
driver from [redacted] platoon was assigned to drive an officer and a guard 25X1
to deliver and pick-up documents. A sedan was used for this purpose [redacted] 25X1

Civilian Clothing and Covert Mission Vehicles

15. Many times in the club of the CI Administration, while watching a motion picture [redacted] saw [redacted] Soviets wearing 25X1 25X1
the blue and OD uniform of the German Peoples' Police (Volkspolizei) [redacted] 3
[redacted] heard them speaking in good Russian and saw them drive away in BMW cars [redacted] 25X1 25X1
16. In the CI Administration garage [redacted] saw many sedans of various 25X1
colors. These sedans had either Soviet or [redacted] plates on the 25X1
rear of the vehicle. Most of these vehicles carried as many as
10 different plates all of which were kept in the car; these plates
were easily changed during the course of a trip. [redacted] used one
of these vehicles, occasionally, to take the acting Bn. CO on fishing 25X1
trips and, during the course of the journey, was asked to change
the plates several times. This was done very easily and was just
a matter of clipping the new plate over the old one.

1. [redacted] Comment: The Bn. Supply Officer told [redacted] that a repair- 25X1
man was needed for the refrigerator and that [redacted] could go out and 25X1
get one. [redacted] able to select a repairman [redacted] 25X1
and the man was paid for his work by the battalion. [redacted]

2. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
3. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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